

Adding Value . . .

PLAYERS IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE ARENA

Global warming is one of the most complex environmental challenges our society has faced in its long history on the planet. An upsurge in scientific knowledge over the last few decades has improved our understanding of global warming and its effects on our communities and ecosystems. “Climate change” is consequently the new buzzword attracting everyone’s attention—an environmental and socio-economic issue that is rapidly moving to the top of political agendas. To learn what we can do to mitigate climate change or adapt to its impacts requires access to the best available information sources. This feature is designed to help you find out who’s who in the climate change arena at the international, national, and provincial levels.

— International Level —

- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** – This convention, which entered into force in 1994, sets the overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle climate change. Adopted as an addition to this convention, the Kyoto Protocol was signed in 1997 and entered into force in 2005. It set binding targets for industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. <http://unfccc.int>
- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** – Through its World Climate Programme, the WMO aims to improve understanding of the climate system for the benefit of societies coping with climate variability and change. <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/>
- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** – Through its Climate Change

Programme, the UNEP develops outreach projects for the UNFCCC, providing governments with additional tools to promote climate change awareness at the national level. <http://www.unep.org/themes/climatechange/>

- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** – Formed by the WMO and UNEP, the IPCC is considered the world’s pre-eminent scientific body on climate change. It assesses the latest scientific, technical, and socio-economic information on a comprehensive and objective basis and produces assessment reports that are an internationally recognized source of expert information. The IPCC shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. <http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- **Food and Agriculture Programme of the United Nations (FAO)** – The role of this programme is to assist UN members, in particular developing countries, in enhancing capacity to confront the negative effects of climate variability and change on agriculture. <http://www.fao.org/clim/>
- **International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)** – This international policy research institute is dedicated to effective communication of knowledge by engaging decision makers in the development and implementation of policies that contribute to sustainable development. A great source of information on climate change policy, the IISD has a Climate Change and Energy website (<http://www.iisd.org/climate/>) and, among other excellent reporting services, a highly recommended Climate-L listserv on climate change news (<http://www.iisd.ca/email/climate-l.htm>).
- **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** – The IUCN is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental network. Through its work on issues related to climate change, it assists governments, non-government

Submissions for this page are welcome.

Please forward to the Managing Editor at: jem@forrex.org

organizations, UN agencies, companies, and local communities to develop and implement policies and best practices regarding climate change.

http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/initiatives/about_work_global_ini_clima/index.cfm

- **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** – This multinational conservation organization’s Climate Programme is guided by a team of experts who examine the effects of climate change, raise awareness, and develop, implement, and advocate for solutions that protect people, habitats, and wildlife. <http://www.worldwildlife.org/climate/index.html>
- **European Commission (EC)** – The EC’s Climate Change Programme is a relevant source of information on European climate change policy, internationally considered as a model to follow. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm
- **European Environment Agency (EEA)** – This European Union agency provides independent information on the environment. It has an excellent climate change website and produces high-quality topical reports on environmental indicators. <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate>
- **Center for International Climate and Environmental Research–Oslo (CICERO)** – This independent research organization provides information and expert advice about national and international issues related to climate change and climate policy. http://www.cicero.uio.no/home/index_e.aspx
- **Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research** – This UK-based research centre—named after John Tyndall, one of the first scientists to recognize the earth’s natural greenhouse effect—develops sustainable responses to climate change through transdisciplinary research and dialogue at both the national and international levels. It produces high-quality reports, covering a wide variety of issues related to climate change. <http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/>
- **Pew Center on Global Climate Change** – Based in the United States, the Pew Center is an independent organization that provides credible information and innovative solutions to address climate change. <http://www.pewclimate.org/>
- **Climate Impacts Group (CIG)** – This interdisciplinary research group studies the impacts of natural climate variability and global warming on the Pacific Northwest region, focussing on the intersection of climate science and public policy. It produces research reports on water resources, aquatic ecosystems, forests, and coasts. <http://www.cses.washington.edu/cig/>
- **US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)** This interagency program supports research on the interactions of natural and human-induced changes in the global environment and the implications of these changes for society. <http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/default.php>

— National Level —

- **Government of Canada** – The EcoAction Program is the Government of Canada gateway to various high-level initiatives aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change. It includes initiatives in the agriculture, energy, and transportation areas, a “Turning the Corner” action plan to reduce GHGs and air pollution, a Chemical Management Plan, and a Trust Fund for clean air and climate change. <http://ecoaction.gc.ca/index-eng.cfm>
- **Environment Canada** – Through its climate change website (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=6ee576be-1>), Environment Canada offers relevant information on present and future projections of climate change, the causes and impacts of this change, and the measures taken to reduce these impacts. Environment Canada also runs the Canadian Climate Change Scenarios Network (<http://www.cccsn.ca/index-e.html>)—an updated interface for distributing climate change scenarios and adaptation research—and the Greenhouse Gas Monitoring, Accounting, and Reporting Program (http://www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/ghg_home_e.cfm).
- **Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)** – Through its Earth Sciences Sector website on climate change (http://ess.nrcan.gc.ca/cli/index_e.php), NRCan generates and publicizes scientific information to improve assessments of the sensitivity and response of Canada’s landmass and coastal areas to the effects of a changing climate.

The website includes links to the Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, the Enhancing Resilience in a Changing Climate Program, and a relevant report “From Impacts to Adaptation: Canada in a Changing Climate 2007.” NRCan also conducts research on various aspects of climate change through the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network (C-CIARN; http://www.c-ciarn.ca/index_e.html) and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS; <http://cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/forestresearch/subjects/climate>). Regarding Canada’s energy sector—the main source of GHG emissions—NRCan promotes energy-efficient choices through the Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE; <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/english/index.cfm?attr=0>) and its EcoEnergy initiatives.

- **Transport Canada** – As the transport sector represents Canada’s second highest source of GHG emissions, Transport Canada has developed several initiatives to help mitigate climate change by promoting the use of more energy-efficient technologies and sustainable transportation. <http://www.tc.gc.ca/environment/menu.htm#climatechange>
- **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)** – CIDA helps developing countries through several initiatives, including the Canada Climate Change Development Fund, and contributions to multilateral funds that take action on issues related to climate change in the developing world. <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/CIDAWEB/acdicida.nsf/En/JUD-121164029-TEU>
- **Climate Action Network (CAN)-Canada** – CAN-Canada supports and empowers Canada’s governments, private sector, labour, and civil society by designing, developing, and implementing effective strategies to reduce GHG emissions. <http://www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/>
- **Canadian Institute for Climate Studies (CICS)** – Initiated in 1993, this not-for-profit corporation furthers our understanding of the climate system, its variability and potential for change, and the application of that understanding to decision making in both the public and private sectors. <http://www.cics.uvic.ca/>

— Provincial Level —

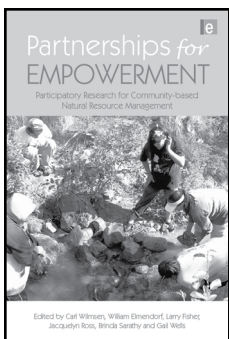
- **BC Climate Action Secretariat** – Established by the Office of the Premier in 2007, this Secretariat (<http://www.climateactionsecretariat.gov.bc.ca/>) provides leadership to achieve the government’s GHG reduction targets by facilitating work in almost every ministry on best practices research and policy, and by ensuring that the public sector becomes carbon neutral. Since spring 2007, British Columbia is also a partner of the regional Western Climate Initiative (<http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/>) that focusses on addressing climate change and reducing GHG emissions.
- **Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC)** Formed at the University of Victoria by the Ministry of Environment and BC Hydro, this consortium encourages collaboration between researchers and stakeholders on adapting to the impacts of climate change. <http://pacificclimate.org/>
- **Government of British Columbia** – Although a global issue, climate change increasingly affects many aspects of our communities and ecosystems; therefore, several government ministries have created working units to address issues related to climate change. These include:
 - Ministry of Environment, Climate Change Section (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/air/climate/index.html>)
 - Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources: Several initiatives and programs that promote clean energy and energy efficiency (<http://www.gov.bc.ca/empr/>)
 - Ministry of Transportation: Climate Action Program (no website available)
 - Ministry of Forests and Range: Climate Change and Forest Carbon Work Unit (email: Forests.ClimateChangeandForestCarbon@gov.bc.ca)
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, MAL/Integrated Land Management Bureau Climate Action Team (no website available)
 - Ministry of Finance, Climate Action Secretariat Communications Office (no website available)
 - Ministry of Education, Climate Action Team (no website available)

- **BC Climate Exchange (BCCE)** – The BCCE facilitates interaction between government agencies and civil society/private sector organizations that engage in public education and outreach on the impacts of climate change and solutions. <http://www.bcclimateexchange.ca/index.php?p=home>

- **David Suzuki Foundation** – This British Columbia-based foundation’s climate change program raises awareness, provides information, and advocates for climate action in our society. http://www.davidsuzuki.org/climate_change/

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FORREX SPECIALIST CONTRIBUTES TO NEW BOOK



Partnerships for Empowerment: Participatory Research for Community-based Natural Resource Management. Edited by Carl Wilmsen, William Elemendorf, Larry Fisher, Jacquelyn Ross, Brinda Sarathy, and Gail Wells.

A “must read” for anyone who cares about natural resource management . . . Without doubt this text will remain a centrepiece in environmental and community studies for years to come, as it demonstrates the power and promise of community-based partnerships on the vanguard of sustainable community development praxis, forging new pathways between social and environmental justice, and wedding theory and practice.

— Dr. Caitlin Cahill, University of Utah

Participatory research has emerged as an approach to producing knowledge that is sufficiently grounded in local needs and realities to support community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), and it is often touted as

crucial to the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources. This book analyzes the current state of the art of participatory research in CBNRM. Its chapters and case studies examine recent experiences in collaborative forest management, harvesting impacts on forest shrubs, watershed restoration in Native American communities, civic environmentalism in an urban neighbourhood, and other topics. Although the main geographic focus of the book is the United States, the issues raised are synthesized and discussed in the context of recent critiques of participatory research and CBNRM worldwide. The book’s purpose is to provide insights and lessons for academics and practitioners involved in CBNRM in many contexts. The issues it covers will be relevant to participatory research and CBNRM practitioners and students the world over.

Ajit Krishnaswamy, FORREX Socio-economics Extension Specialist, co-authored the chapter on Institutionalization of Participatory Research. You can order online at <http://www.styluspub.com> Save 20% by using the source code EMPW8 when placing order. Offer expires December 31, 2008.